

Standard USG-2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of the American republic—its basic democratic principles and its political systems.

USG-2.5 Explain factors that have shaped the distinctive characteristics of American society, including the belief in limited government, religious freedom, diversity of the population, and relative social equality. (P)

Taxonomy Level: 2.7-B Understand Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

Students will have an extensive background of limited government and religious freedom while having less information about the concepts of diversity and social equality and how they have shaped American society.

(4-2.3; 4-2.4; 4-3.1; 5-1.2; 5-1.5; USHC 2.1; USHC 2.2; USHC 4.4; USHC 9.5)

It is essential for students to understand each of these factors and to demonstrate their influence in securing the freedom and equality in American society. Students should be able to give evidence of these ideals reflected in American society.

It is not essential for students to know all characteristics which have influenced American society, to compare American society to other societies or to make a determination of which ideals are distinctly “American.”

Assessment guidelines:

The objective of this indicator is for students to explain how American society has been shaped by these key factors. Assessment should focus on the impact these factors have had on American society. It would be appropriate to have students predict how aspects of our society and political culture would be different if one/any/all of these beliefs had not been widely held. Furthermore, assessment could ask students to compare these factors and support an argument for which one(s) are most or least important.